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OLVERSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1952.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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ULVERSTON,

November, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report
of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area, in acres.	127,485
Population - Preliminary Census, 1951.	17,244
- Registrar-General's estimate of home population, mid 1952.	16,400
Number of inhabited houses.	5,465
Rateable Value.	£82,422
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate.	£316.8.4

The district is entirely rural in character, the northern portion being typical Lakeland country with lakes and fells merging into the more fertile southern portion which extends to the coast and forms part of the northern shore of Morecambe Bay. Two lakes, Coniston and Esthwaite, as well as two-thirds of the shores of Lake Windermere are wholly contained in the district.

The principal industry is agriculture, with the hotel and catering industry playing a prominent part during the summer season.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1952 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

Of the 247 births registered, 128 were males and 119 females, there were 15 illegitimate births, seven male and eight female.

The number of deaths was agreeably small and compensates for the high number recorded in the previous year.

Approximately 73% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principle causes of death were:- Heart Diseases 80, intracranial vascular lesions 36 and malignant growths 29.

Year	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes).		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality.		Neo-Natal.	
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1952	247	#15.1	196	#12.0	4	16	nil	nil	1	16	1	16
1951	224	13.5	271	16.3	3	13	nil	nil	5	22	3	13
1950	252	13.9	228	13.6	7	29	nil	nil	4	17	2	9
1949	234	14.0	254	15.2	8	33	nil	nil	5	21	-	-
1948	282	16.4	219	12.7	12	40	nil	nil	5	17	-	-
1947	282	16.9	245	14.7	3	10	nil	nil	10	35	-	-
Average 5 years 1947 - 1951	-	14.9	-	14.5	-	25	-	-	-	23	-	4

Adjusted (live birth rate (comparability factor. 1.09) = 16.4 per 1,000.
(death rate (comparability factor. 0.81) = 9.7 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.		148 smaller towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.		Ulverston Rural District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1948	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	16.4	12.7
1949	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	14.0	12.5
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.2	11.2
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.7	13.2
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	16.4	9.7

Note: The death rate for the Ulverston Rural District quoted in the above table for the year 1948 is the crude death rate. Those for the years 1949 to 1952, inclusive, are adjusted death rates after correction for age and sex distribution.

The birth rates for 1948 and 1949 are the crude birth rates and those for 1950 to 1952 are adjusted.

The correction is made so that the adjusted rates for the Ulverston Rural District can be compared with the adjusted rate for any other locality or with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:- J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B.,
B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:- Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District, Grange-over-Sands
Urban District, Ulverston
Urban District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:- H. C. CLAYDON, Certificate -
Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary
Institute - Meat and Other
Foods.

Sanitary Inspector:- H. E. BINGHAM, Certificate -
Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary
Institute - Meat and Other
Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The townships to the west and south of Ulverston derive their water supplies from the Barrow Undertaking and those adjacent to Grange from the Grange Undertaking. The water in both cases is treated before going into supply. Most of the remaining parishes have their own separate supplies which are untreated, the installation of chlorinating plants authorised by the Council in 1951 not yet being complete.

During the year twelve samples were taken from the public supplies and submitted to bacteriological examination. Eight of these proved satisfactory and four unsatisfactory. Four chemical examinations were also made and all were reported satisfactory

Twelve bacteriological examinations of private supplies were made, seven proving satisfactory and five unsatisfactory. One private supply was subjected to chemical examination, the result being satisfactory.

The table on page 5 shows the numbers of dwelling-houses and numbers of population supplied with water from public mains and from private sources in the parishes of the Ulverston Rural District at the end of 1952.

The number of dwelling houses with a supply direct to the houses now totals 3,396 compared with 3,344 in 1951. The increase is mainly the result of new building but a further 10 houses in Coniston have been connected instead of being supplied from stand-pipes.

TOWNSHIP.	From Public Mains.				From Private wells and springs etc.	
	Direct to houses.		By means of stand-pipes.		No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.
	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.		
Aldingham.	277	935	-	-	5	18
Allithwaite Lower.	448	1210	-	-	2	5
Allithwaite Upper.	212	721	-	-	10	36
Angerton.	-	-	-	-	5	23
Blawith.	-	-	-	-	37	117
Broughton East.	27	103	-	-	25	109
Broughton West.	264	826	-	-	39	137
Cartmel Fell.	18	58	-	-	97	264
Claife.	142	380	-	-	31	119
Colton.	16	70	-	-	302	1057
Coniston.	289	900	10	13	43	165
Dunnerdale.	-	-	-	-	61	190
Egton-with-Newland.	111	326	-	-	162	556
Haverthwaite.	192	556	-	-	55	269
Hawkshead.	208	552	-	-	19	81
Holker Lower.	401	1319	-	-	46	183
Holker Upper.	8	38	-	-	40	179
Kirkby.	387	1180	-	-	41	197
Lowick.	34	115	-	-	44	171
Mansriars.	1	5	-	-	10	50
Osmotherley.	45	82	-	-	46	156
Pennington.	384	1170	-	-	8	33
Satterthwaite.	-	-	-	-	106	336
Skelwith.	-	-	-	-	92	256
Staveley.	122	327	-	-	6	21
Subberthwaite.	9	30	-	-	15	47
Torver.	-	-	-	-	60	196
Urswick.	368	1110	-	-	5	19

Drainage and Sewerage.

Some further small additions were made to the Council's sewerage and sewage disposal works during the year: at Newbiggin sewers were laid and a sewage disposal tank constructed and extensions were made to the sewers in the parishes of Allithwaite Upper and Haverthwaite.

Particulars of existing methods of disposal of sewage in the various townships of the Rural District are given below.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Village.</u>	<u>Method of Disposal.</u>
Aldingham.	Leece.	Sewage tank with land irrigation.
	Gleaston.	Sewage tank.
	Scales.	Two sewage tanks with overflows to land.
	Baycliffe.	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Newbiggin.	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Allithwaite Lower.	Allithwaite.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to sea.
	Cartmel.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to River Eea.
Allithwaite Upper.	Lindale.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to River Winster.
	Newton.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters - outfall to stream.
Broughton East.	Field Broughton.	Sewage tank.
Broughton West.	Broughton-in-Furness.	Sewage tank with overflow to the tidal waters of the River Duddon.
	Foxfield.	Tidal waters of the River Duddon.
Claife.	Near Sawrey.	Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey.	Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse.	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton.	Bouth.	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
	Oxenpark.	Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston.	Coniston.	Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.

Egton.	Greenodd.	Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge.	Sewage tank.
Haverthwaite.	Haverthwaite.	Sewage tank with over-flow to river.
	Backbarrow.	Sewage tank with over-flow to River Leven.
Hawkshead.	Hawkshead.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Outgate.	Two sewage tanks with outfall to land and stream.
	Hannakin.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Holker Lower.	Cark.	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Ravenstown.	Sewage tank and filters.
	Flookburgh.	Pumping plant discharging sewage to enlarged works at Ravenstown with outfall to sea.
Kirkby Ireleth.	Sandside.	Tidal waters of River Duddon.
	Beckside.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Chapples.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Soutergate.	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
Lowick.	Lowick Green.	Sewage tank with outfall to River Crake.
Osmotherley.	Beehive.	Tank with outfall to stream.
	Tarn Close.	Sewage tank with outfall to land.
	Three Bridges.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Pennington.	Swarthmoor.	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Trinkeld.	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Loppergarth.	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters and outfall to stream.
Satterthwaite.	Satterthwaite.	Private sewer to tank with outfall to stream.
Staveley.	Staveley.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Torver.	Torver.	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Urswick.	Great Urswick.	Sewage tanks with outfall to Tarn.
	Little Urswick.	Sewage tanks with outfall to Tarn.
	Stainton.	Sewage tanks with outfall to land.
	Bardsea.	Sewage tanks with outfall to sea.

Public Conveniences.

Public Conveniences are provided at Allithwaite, Cark, Cartmel, Coniston, Hawkshead, Goadsbarrow, Bardsea and Broughton.

Schools.

Some considerable time had elapsed since a comprehensive survey was made of the sanitary arrangements at schools. Such a survey was, therefore, carried out in May. It was found that of the 28 schools in the District only 15 were provided with water closets. The remaining 14 were variously provided with privies (9), pails (2), trough closets (2) or chemical closets (1). Thirteen of the schools were considered to have unsatisfactory arrangements for washing and drinking.

A piped water supply is available in all schools except three and one of these was closed in July. Recommendations were made for the provision of W. C. s, and other improvements in all appropriate cases so as to bring the schools up to the required standard.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the Sanitary Inspectors' report, as also are particulars of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

One case of food poisoning was notified in which the organism responsible was not identified and the food involved could not be determined with any degree of accuracy.

HOUSING.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
a)	By the local authority	30
b)	By other bodies or persons	14
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-		
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	172
	(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	450
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	8
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	125

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.

57

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.

Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

16

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners

14

(b) By local authority in default of owners

Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.

Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.

Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part 4 - Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.

70

(2) Number of families dwelling therein.

131

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.

655

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.

2

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.

10

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.

53

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Part 2 - Improvement Grants, etc.

	Schemes of private bodies or individuals.	Schemes of local authority.
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Number of schemes submitted

(a) By private individuals to local authority

5

-

(b) By local authority to Ministry

5

-

Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected

5

-

Number of schemes approved by the Ministry

Nil

-

The Local Authority's Housing Schemes in progress at the end of the year included Coniston 7; Lindale 6; Flockburgh 28; Backbarrow 4; Low Browedre, Backbarrow 6; Penny Bridge 8; Broughton-in-Furness 8 and Allithwaite 2.

Contemplated schemes for 1953 include Coniston 5; Spark-bridge 8; Haverthwaite 14; Kirkby-in-Furness 16; Lindale-in-Cartmel 8 and Allithwaite 14.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Rural District during the five years 1947 - 1951 compared with the numbers in 1952.

Disease.	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 Number of cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	10	37	23	46	10	21	16	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles.	84	186	12	237	171	70	0	0
Whooping Cough.	18	50	30	42	77	36	0	0
Puerperal fever and pyrexia.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia.	17	15	12	7	21	19	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	5	5	3	3	5	1	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Enteric.	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Para-typhoid fever.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polio-encephalitis.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Polio-myelitis.	8	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Food Poisoning.	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
TOTALS.	145	298	83	336	278	149	16	0

Since 1st July, 1952, the policy has been adopted of disinfecting houses only after tuberculosis and smallpox. Bedding and clothing is still disinfected following all cases where these articles are likely to be a method of spread.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1952.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
25-	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
35-	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	8	4	2	3	1	0	1	0
	12		5		1		1	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Rural District Residents during the past twelve years.

Year	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1941	111	11	3	4	2	5	0	0
1942	14	4	2	0	2	0	0	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	12	13	5	4	4	5	1	0
1945	5	5	5	7	1	3	0	0
1946	9	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
1947	6	8	6	7	1	2	0	0
1948	9	10	5	3	1	0	0	2
1949	11	6	5	6	1	2	0	0
1950	9	4	5	3	3	0	1	0
1951	12	5	2	3	2	1	0	1
1952	8	4	2	3	1	0	1	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1938.

At 31st December, 1952, there were 33 factories registered at which mechanical power is not used of which 28 inspections had been made during the year. There were also 58 factories at which mechanical power is used and of these 42 inspections were made. Four defects were found, two cases each of want of cleanliness and defective sanitary conveniences. All the defects were subsequently remedied.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Sect. 47.

No action was taken under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

BYE-LAWS.

The following Bye-Laws are in operation in the Rural District.

<u>Subject.</u>	<u>Date of Adoption.</u>
Building Bye-Laws.	1939
Petrol Filling Stations Bye-Laws.	1930
Slaughterhouse Bye-Laws.	1932
Clean Food Bye-Laws.	1951

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Rural District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspectors is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ulverston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water Supplies.

In our report for 1951 we drew attention to the need for chlorination of certain of the public supplies, and although at the time of compiling this report no plant has actually been installed, it is encouraging to know that arrangements are well in hand to treat the supplies at Broughton, Coniston and Hawkshead. We trust that similar schemes for dealing with the supplies serving Eton, Haverthwaite and Backbarrow will follow within the foreseeable future.

It should be realised, however, that in making the decision to provide chlorinating plant, the Council has accepted a responsibility which entails considerably more than the initial installation. Such plants will require frequent inspection to check their efficiency, as on the one hand an over chlorinated water supply can result in considerable inconvenience, whilst a false sense of security can be fostered if the plant is working below the proper dosage.

Sewerage.

The year passed without significant progress in the matter of the treatment of domestic sewage, and we would again stress that in our opinion this subject is not receiving the attention which it deserves. A piped water supply demands a proper system of sewage disposal if the cause of sanitation is to be pursued. In the past, the fact that one gallon of piped water yields practically one gallon of sewage has been tritely ignored, with the result that with the greatly increased use of water considerable trouble has been met soon after the water has been laid on, and colonies of individually owned septic tanks have had to be constructed very often on unsuitable sites.

We are quite aware that capital expenditure has to be conserved in these days, but it seems absurd to build a block of Council Houses in an area which is unsewered, and then construct a sewer which is limited to serve the new houses and only those existing houses which can be connected in directly. This occurred at Newbiggin, where the whole hamlet could have been sewered but for reductions insisted upon by the Ministry of Health. In this particular case there remain properties which will never be satisfactorily drained owing to their low lying situation.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The problem of food contamination has very much come to the fore within recent years and there is no doubt that human failings in the matter of handling food are responsible for far more illness than is caused by physically unsound food. The advantage gained by having all foodstuffs inspected at the time of production can be completely lost if the public have not the education (or rather common sense) to ensure that the food they handle is kept wholesome and free from contamination.

Much good work has been done in larger and more congested authorities by lectures to food shop assistants, caterers etc. on this subject, but in a district like this such a scheme is hardly practicable owing to the scattered nature of the establishments and the fact that much of the labour is seasonal. Our approach to this problem has been confined to frequent inspections of the establishments which we know to be somewhat lax in their attitude to such matters, drawing attention to the need for care and pointing out visible shortcomings. Routine inspections have included visits to catering establishments, bakehouses and butchers shops and we are of the opinion that with very few exceptions the standard of cleanliness has been very high.

During the year 380 lbs. of foodstuffs deposited at shops have been condemned as unfit for human consumption. Included in this amount are such foods as - Butter, Tinned Ham, Veal, Pork, Tinned Peas, Peaches, Pears, Oranges, Apricots and Evaporated Milk etc.

Milk and Dairies.

Inspection of the dairy premises occupied by retailers has been carried out regularly during the year. There is a tendency to an increase in the number of retail dairymen in recent years, and it would appear that the era of the producer retailer is coming to a close. The main reason is that farmers have not now the time or the labour to spare on retail distribution, and prefer to finish with the job at the production stage. The only disadvantage we can see in this method is that in many cases the milk has to be transported to the dairyman's premises for bottling, whereas the producer retailer carries out the whole business in one place.

Of 142 samples of raw milk submitted for B. Tuberculosis examination none were found to be infected with the organism. This highly satisfactory position can only be construed as reflecting the success of the drive to eradicate the disease from milk cows.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

Thirty-four premises within the area are registered for the sale of Ice-cream and (as in 1951) only one is registered for manufacture. Most of the ice cream now on sale is pre-packed and is the product of one or other of the larger firms of nationwide repute. We are both of the opinion that this is a favourable trend, as not only do these concerns produce a very high quality article of food, but the fact of having specialised knowledge in ice cream manufacture tends to minimise any food poisoning risk. It is our usual practice when new applications are being made for registration to encourage the sale of the pre-packed commodity, particularly where the premises concerned deal in general wares.

Refuse Collection.

During the year, with the inclusion of parts of the parish of Cartmel Fell, the scope of the refuse collection service reached what might be said to be its highest level, bearing in mind the available organisation. With the additional new houses which have been built during the year it has proved impossible to maintain a fortnightly collection of ashbins (a) when one or more of the refuse labourers has been absent through sickness, (b) when abnormal conditions of snow and ice prevailed and (c) when vehicles suffered mechanical breakdown necessitating the curtailment of the day's work. In other words, the resources of the service are now stretched to the full, and if the present rate of housebuilding continues there will be a need for an extra vehicle and personnel. This would no doubt result in an outcry owing to the additional expense, but it must be remembered that additional rateable value cannot be expected without some outlay in such necessary services as refuse collection.

The approximate number of bins dealt with each fortnight was 4,200 an increase of about 70 on the previous year, whilst conversions of earth closets to W.Cs. numbered 26, leaving approximately 600 to be emptied as often as possible i.e. at about three monthly intervals.

Three refuse collection vehicles are employed regularly and one open lorry is kept for use in emergency.

Refuse depots are situated in the following localities: Kirkby, Broughton, Lindal, Urswick, Newland, Greenodd, Coniston, Hawkshead, Gawthwaite, Stott Park, Haverthwaite, Holker and Cartmel.

Housing.

During 1952, 42 families were rehoused in Council dwellings. Most of these families formerly lived with "in-laws" and were successful in obtaining tenancies mainly on grounds of overcrowding. The waiting lists for the various new housing sites have lessened considerably owing to the high rentals which now obtain, and these lists, therefore, are far from being a true reflection of the actual housing needs. Nearly 600 unfit houses will require to be dealt with under demolition or re-conditioning schemes at some future date and if circumstances permit, a start on this work could well be made within say the next two years.

Rodent Control.

The work of rodent control continued steadily during the year, and more use was made of the poison 'Warfarin' in dealing with property infestations. The refuse depots required frequent treatment, but in this connection we are of the opinion that a refuse tip has its good points, as it tends to attract rodents from the vicinity, thereby localising the infestation area. Rodents which are found on a tipping site do not seem to leave it, preferring to live near the source of an almost inexhaustible food supply and warmth.

The treatment of sewers was carried out according to Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements and it was revealed that very little infestation was occurring.

A few complaints of other vermin such as fleas, cock-roaches, steam flies etc. were attended to without difficulty using various forms of D.D.T. insecticides.

General.

It was not found necessary to institute any legal proceedings during the year. Nineteen Statutory Notices were served, all other nuisances being dealt with informally.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

H. E. BINGHAM.
H. C. CLAYDON.

Sanitary Inspectors.

